

## **Rejection of the World Wildlife Fund's Initiative: The New Generation Plantations Project**

(Translated by Anne Schoeneborn, CSN Volunteer Translator)

On this, the International Day Against Tree Monocultures, the Latin American Network Against Monoculture Tree Plantations (RECOMA) and the other undersigned organizations and activists reject and call on others to reject the initiative known as the New Generation Plantations Project (NGPP), being led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). On the WWF's website, the organization states that "we need the commodities and services from tree plantations" and goes on to set forth the necessity of improving the current model of forestry in order to keep these commodities flowing, to contribute to protecting and restoring natural forests, and to respect the rights of local communities. In order to achieve this, the organization believes it is sufficient to simply develop better plantation practices.

However, it is the current trade of commodities and, more generally, the current model of production and consumption that is at the root of humanity's problems. And yet the WWF does not voice a single criticism of this model or suggest changing it in any way. It believes or seeks to make others believe that the contradictions intrinsic to the industrial forestry model—the concentration of land, the displacement of local communities, the exclusion of other forms of production, the exhaustion of water resources and the soil—will magically resolve themselves.

The social and environmental harm done by plantations, which increase as the profits of corporations rise, are directly related to the industrial-scale "forestry model," characterized by monocultures, to which the WWF is referring. This is why large forestry corporations have used every possible strategy to make their activities appear "green." The WWF's sole concern seems to be that of maintaining and widening the current markets of the plantations. In addition, a significant part of the NGPP is oriented toward opening the market's doors to carbon and energy for forestry plantations, thus permitting even more fertile lands, which millions of people in Latin America depend on for their survival, to be occupied by large corporations.

The NGPP involves a group of corporations from the forestry sector (CMPC-Forestal Mininco, Masisa, Fibria, Mondi, Portucel, Sabah Forest Industries, Stora Enso, Veracel, UPM-Kymmene) as well as the State Forestry Administration of China, the Forestry Commission of Great Britain and Sweden's The Forestry Initiative.

The NGPP's website showcases a series of examples of industrial plantations

throughout the world that have helped to “conserve biodiversity.” Of the nine highlighted cases, five are tree plantations in Latin America that belong to the companies UPM (Uruguay), Veracel/Stora Enso and Fibria (Brazil), Masisa (Argentina) and CMPC/Forestal Mininco (Chile). Each and every one of these companies has received official complaints from local communities, which the WWF has of course opted to ignore. The official complaints include, among others, violating the rights (and territories) of indigenous and traditional communities, illegally occupying land, destroying valuable ecosystems and water sources, and replacing croplands with plantations.

In the name of RECOMA and the other undersigned organizations, we denounce this type of manipulation as a form of consenting to the commercial interests of organizations that do not hesitate to violate the rights of the communities where they are introducing their tree monocultures. This is a public call to all social movements and organizations to reject the NGPP.

We launch this message as a part of the International Day Against Tree Monocultures’ activities, as we remember Ricardo Carrere who throughout his life and work with WRM and RECOMA helped to advance the fight against tree plantations and their negative impacts, recognizing the rights of local and indigenous communities over their land.

September 21, 2011

**Member organizations of the Latin American Network Against Monoculture Tree Plantations (RECOMA):**

- Amigos de la Tierra Argentina (Friends of the Earth Argentina)
- Foro Boliviano sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo – FOBOMADE (Bolivian Forum on the Environment and Development)
- Red Alerta contra el Desierto Verde (Alert Against the Green Desert Network) – Brazil
- Federação de Orgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional (Federation of Organizations for Social and Educational Assistance) – Espírito Santo, Brazil
- Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales – OLCA (Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts) – Chile
- CENSAT Agua Viva (Asociación Centro Nacional de Salud Ambiente y Trabajo), Amigos de la Tierra Colombia (Friends of the Earth Colombia)
- Asociación Comunidades Ecologistas la Ceiba, Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica (Friends of the Earth Costa Rica)
- Acción Ecológica (Ecological Action) – Ecuador
- Centro Salvadoreño de Tecnología Apropiada – CESTA (Salvadoran Center for Appropriate Technology) – El Salvador

- SAVIA, Escuela de Pensamiento Ecologista (School of Ecological Thought) – Guatemala
- Madre Tierra (Mother Earth) – Honduras
- Otros Mundos, Amigos de la Tierra México (Friends of the Earth Mexico)
- Facilitación para America Latina Iniciativa contra los Agronegocios (Facilitation for Latin America Agribusiness Initiative) – Nicaragua
- Sobrevivencia (Survival) – Paraguay
- Programa de Defensa de Derechos Indígenas (Program for the Defense of Indigenous Rights) – Peru
- REDES, Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay (Friends of the Earth Uruguay)
- Amigos en Defensa de la Gran Sabana – AMIGRANSA (Friends’ Society in Defense of the Great Savannah – Venezuela
- Colectivo VientoSur – Chile
- Grupo Guayubira – Uruguay
- RAPAL – Uruguay
- Convergencia de Movimientos de los Pueblos de las Américas – COMPA (Convergence of People’s Movements of the Americas) – México
- Movimiento Mexicano de Afectados por las Represas – MAPDER (Mexican Movement of People Affected by Dams) – México
- Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería – REMA (Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining) – Mexico
- Comisión Ecológica El Belloto de la Red Medioambiental Region Valparaíso (Ecological Commission El Belloto of the Environmental Network Valparaíso Region) – Chile
- CEPEDDES – Brazil
- Redmanglar Internacional
- Coordinadora Guatemalteca para la Defensa de los Manglares y la Vida, COGMANGLAR (Guatemalan Coordinator for the Defense of Mangroves and Life)
- Mapuexpress – Chile
- Centro Ecoceanos – Chile
- Radio del Mar – Chile
- Liga Ciudadana – Chile
- Oficina Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación de San Columbanos de Chile (Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of San Columbanos of Chile)
- Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales de la Araucanía – RADA (Environmental Rights Action Network of Araucanía) – Chile
- La Red por la Defensa de la Precordillera, La Florida (The Network for the Defense of the Precordillera, La Florida) – Chile